

Japanese Fairy Tale Series, No. 12.  
**THE CUB'S TRIUMPH.**

TOLD IN ENGLISH BY MRS. J. H. JAMES.



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日本昔噺第十二號

# 野干の手柄

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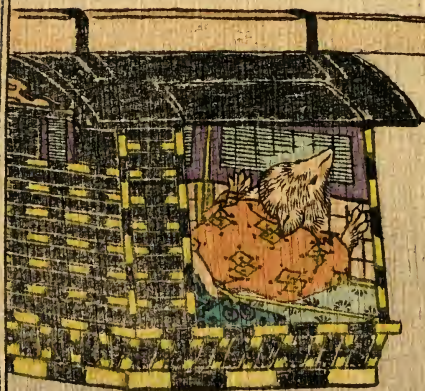
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## THE CUB'S TRIUMPH.

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**ONCE** upon a time there lived in a forest, a badger, and a mother fox with one little cub.

There were no other beasts in the wood, because the hunters had killed them all with bows and arrows, or by setting snares.



The deer, and the wild boar, the hares, the weasels and the stoats even the bright little squirrels had been shot, or had fallen into traps. At last, only the badger, and the fox, with her young one were left. And they were starving, for they dared not venture from their holes for fear of the traps.

They did not know what to do, or where to turn for food. At last the badger said,

“I have thought of a plan. I will pretend to be dead. You

must change yourself into a man.  
and take me into the town, and  
sell me. With the  
money you get  
for me



you must buy food, and bring it into the forest. When I get a chance, I will run away, and come back to you, and we will eat our dinner together. Mind you wait for me, and don't eat any of it until I come. Next week it will be your turn to be dead, and my turn to sell, do you see?"

The fox thought this plan would do very well: so, as soon as the badger had lain down, and pretended to be dead, she said to her little cub,

“Be sure not to come out of the hole until I come back. Be very good and quiet, and I will soon bring you some nice dinner.”

She then  
changed her-  
self into  
a wood-  
cutter,





took the badger by the heels, and swung him over her shoulders, and trudged off into the town. There she sold the badger for a fair





price, and with  
the money  
bought  
some fish,  
some *tofu*\*  
and some  
vegetables.

She then ran  
back to the forest

as fast as she could, changed  
herself into a fox again, and crept  
into her hole to see if little cub  
was all right. Little cub was there,  
safe enough, but very hungry, and



\* *Curd made from white beans.*

wanted to begin upon the *tofu* at once.

“No, no,” said the mother fox.

“Fair play’s a jewel. We must wait for the badger”



Soon the  
badger  
arrived,  
quite  
out



of breath with running

so fast.

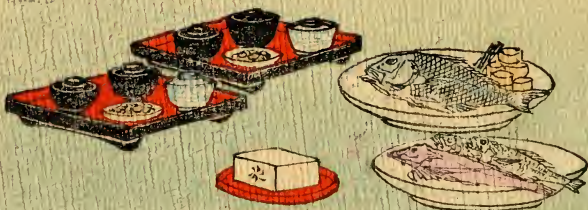
“I hope  
you haven’t

been eating any of  
the dinner,” he panted. “I could  
not get away sooner. The man you  
sold me to, brought his wife to  
look at me, and boasted how cheap



he had bought me. You should have asked twice as much. At last they left me alone, and then I jumped up, and ran away as fast as I could."

The badger, the fox and the cub now sat down to dinner, and had a fine feast, the badger taking care to get the best bits for himself.





Some days after, when all the food was finished, and they had begun to get hungry again, the badger said to the fox;

“Now 'tis your turn to die.”

So the fox pretended to be dead, and the badger changed himself into a hunter, shouldered the fox, and went off to the town, where he made a good bargain, and sold her for a nice little sum of money.

You have seen already that the badger was greedy and selfish. What do you think he did now?

He wished to have all the money, and all the food it would buy for himself, so, he whispered to the man who had bought the fox.

“That fox is only pretending to be dead; take care he doesn’t run away.”

“We’ll soon settle that,” said the man: and he knocked the fox on the head with a big stick, and killed her.

The badger next laid out the money in buying all the nice things he could think of. He carried them



off to the forest, and there eat  
them all up himself, without giv-  
ing one bit to the poor little cub,  
who was all alone, crying for





its mother, very sad, and very hungry.

Poor little motherless cub! But being a clever little fox, he soon began to put two and two together, and at last felt quite sure that the badger had, in some way, caused the loss of his mother.

He made up his mind that he would punish the badger; and as he was not big enough, or strong enough, to do it by force, he was obliged to try another plan.

He did not let the badger see

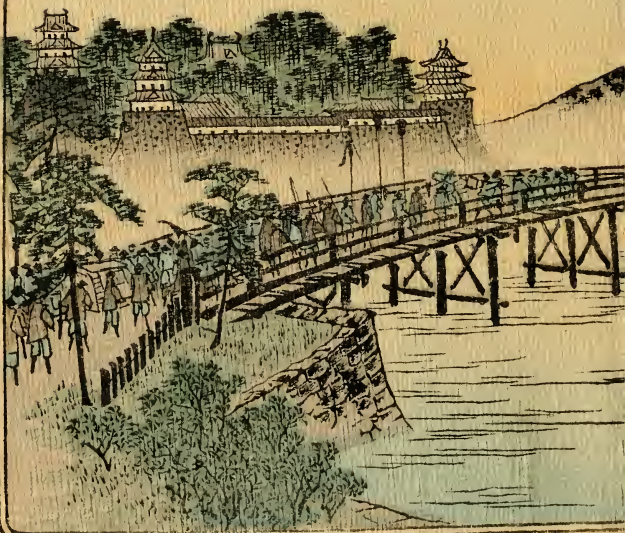
how angry he was with him, but said in a friendly way.

“Let us have a game of changing ourselves into men. If you can change yourself so cleverly that I cannot find you out, you will have won the game; but, if I change myself so that you cannot find me out, then I shall have won the game. I will begin, if you like; and, you may be sure, I shall turn myself into somebody very grand while I am about it.”

The badger agreed. So then,

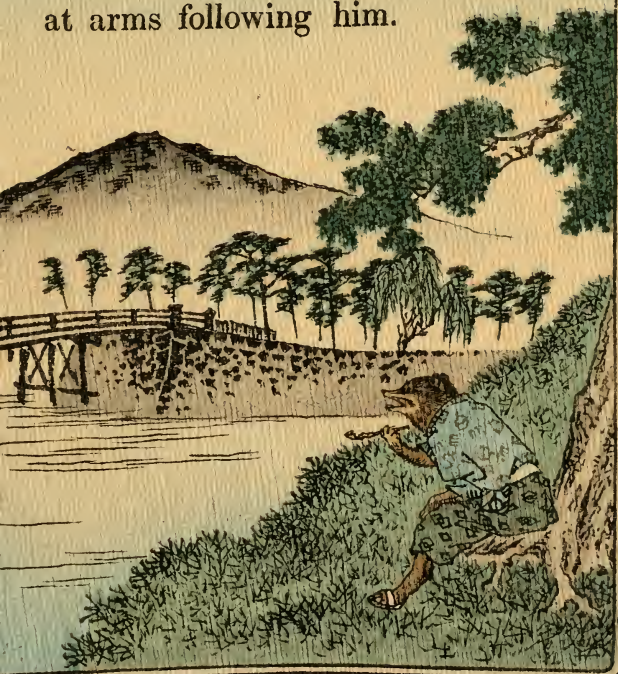


instead of changing himself at all,  
the cunning little cub just went  
and hid himself behind a tree, and  
watched to see what would happen.  
Presently, there came along the





bridge, leading into the town, a  
*daimio*, seated in a *norimono*, a  
great crowd of servants and men  
at arms following him.



The badger was quite sure that this must be the fox; so, he ran up to the *norimono*, put in his head, and cried. "I've found you



out! I've won the game!"

"A badger! A dadger! Off with his head," cried the *daimio*.





So one of the retainers  
cut off the badger's head  
with one blow of  
his sharp sword.

The little cub, all the  
time laughing unseen  
behind the  
tree.







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